

Kyodan

Kyodan News Letter

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IN JAPAN

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THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL AND THE KYODAN

"There should be close cooperation between the Christian school and the Kyodan for the mission and work of the Christian Church in Japan." This is a kind of watchword uttered by leaders of both Christian schools and the church nowadays.

There has been an interesting correlation between the church and the schools in their growth in this country. When the schools were developing in size and strength the work of the church was advancing. In a city where the church has extended its influence upon the life of the people a school has performed its educational purpose as a Christian institution.

According to a survey in 1958 about 7,700 pupils of 28 Christian high schools and 24 middle schools in Japan, 2.3% of those in the middle schools and 8.5% of those in the high schools, received baptism and joined local churches. After the war religious education in Christian schools has been permitted without interference from the government. The attitude of people toward Christianity has changed greatly. They generally have good feelings toward Christian schools and the number of applicants for admission to these schools has been increasing every year.

An acute problem of Christian schools, however, is that they have difficulty in securing good Christian teachers. To cope with this matter the School Relations Committee of the Kyodan for the first time carried out a campaign for the cultivation of potential Christian workers last fall. One of its aims was to recruit potential teachers for the Christian schools from young people in the Kyodan, providing a scholarship fund for them. It had a favorable response from high school pupils and college students. Some of them wrote to the Committee expressing their sincere devotion to the cause of Christian education in their country.

The way is opened for the school and the church now. We will march together in carrying out our mission through education.

NOTES

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

LABORATORY OF PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

1924

BY

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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

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AN EVANGELISTIC THRUST

Upon entering the second century of Protestant Evangelism in Japan the Kyodan in 1961 and 1962 held conferences to take a look at past evangelism and its results, and at possible needs of evangelism in the future. In 1962 the Evangelism Committee made a 10 year plan of Evangelism keeping in mind the following issues--'we shall be aware of the Mission given to the Kyodan; recognize that we, as a Church, have been confronted with many difficulties; attempt to respond to the Lord's Commission in a way to transcend these obstacles.'

This 10 year plan involved 2 main emphases, namely, (a) the renewal of the church and, (b) larger parish evangelism. These 2 points are really parts of the same thing, that is, that the Church must seriously examine itself in the light and truth of the Bible and must also carry forth to the world both mission and service.

The Church in Japan, existing in this secular society always has been aware of the great difficulty in taking root in the community. People who became members of the church were generally limited to the middle-class *intelligenza* who have always enjoyed individual freedom to a certain extent. It has always been a weak point of Japan evangelism not to be able to penetrate deeply into society with the gospel.

It has become obvious that local churches of the Kyodan being small and on the outer circle of society that there has been a feeling of isolation and a lacking of the feeling of solidarity. This, too, has been a hindrance in the presentation of the gospel.

The larger parish has been instituted as an answer to these problems. The larger parish has not yet taken on a definite form. In the 9 areas selected for this type evangelism 6 were in rural areas and 3 in industrial centers. While guidance has been given as to its structure these projects have been carried out in the pattern most suited to the needs of the particular area. It is hoped that by this group strengthening approach that with the strength of the group that the areas which, to now, have been rocky soil for the sower shall bear fruit and that the gospel can be presented to the labor classes which previously have been practically untouched.

Larger parishes have taken some of the following forms: (a) one pastor serving several churches in a limited area, utilizing the strength of laymen in cooperative programs. (b) Several pastors, including missionaries, of varying talents have pooled resources and are serving several churches dividing responsibility and ministry.

This larger parish evangelism has been bearing fruit in rural areas and small cities, however, it is still a future program especially in larger cities.

OKINOSHIMA PIONEER EVANGELISM PROJECT

Oki Church is on a western island of the Oki Islands in Japan Sea. This church was opened in 1958 as pioneer evangelism.

Since the pastor of the church, Rev. Kiyoshi Ono, is a native of this island, he was accepted as a relative to the islander not as a stranger. This was a great advantage to work without trouble in terms of human relations with the islanders. presently he and his wife, Kiyoko, have five children in their family.

On a hilltop facing the Japan Sea is located the church building, parsonage and the day nursery which was completed in the last fall. Statistically Oki Church

presently has 15 members and 8 seekers. Average attendance at meetings are as follows:

Morning service:	13	Evening service:	4
Prayer meeting:	7	Church school:	22

In addition, 12 persons regularly attend meetings on a neighboring island.

Before the church started its day nursery, it was quite difficult to carry out mission work on this feudalistic and exclusive island. There was not enough support and salary for the pastor's family for their living. The pastor confessed that he and his wife were some times obliged to exist for some days on shell-fish which they picked on the sea-shore.

Presently sixty infants are cared at the church's day nursery. People of the Oki town have expressed their gratitude for the service of the day nursery.

Mrs. Ono has also been rendering service as a leader of the Women's Society of the church. The Kyodan has sent its pastors to call on such pioneer evangelism projects during the past year, and have been carrying out a program of future support and cooperation to these pioneer projects.

THE COST OF LIVING IN JAPAN

No one is surprised to read that the average worker-household in Japan had a 7.9% increase in wages in 1965 over 1964. The actual amount of wages received monthly by the average worker-household was ¥68,419 (bonuses included). This amounts to \$190.00 (U.S.) or a yearly income of \$2,280.00. It is also reported that for the same household, living expenses totalled ¥51,859 (\$144.00) monthly which reflected a 7.3% raise in cost of living over 1964.

Check-up made by the Statistics Bureau disclosed that the average monthly savings by a worker-household with banks, post offices, etc. in 1965 amounted to ¥6,946 (\$19.00) monthly.

The relationship of income to cost of living can be seen in the following graph which divides roughly income into 5 groups.

Income		Living Costs	Commodity Increases	
Group 1	+8.0	+10.0	Foods, Beverage	+8.9
2	+8.6	+7.8	Housing	+6.7
3	+8.6	+9.2	Clothing	+2.7
4	+8.3	+7.9	Heating, etc.	+9.3
5	+6.7	+4.1	Miscellaneous	+7.2

Area wise, earnings are highest in the Tokyo area followed by Osaka and Shikoku with Kyushu the lowest. At the same time Tokyo stood highest in cost of living with Kyushu the bottom. (Trade and Shipping News)

